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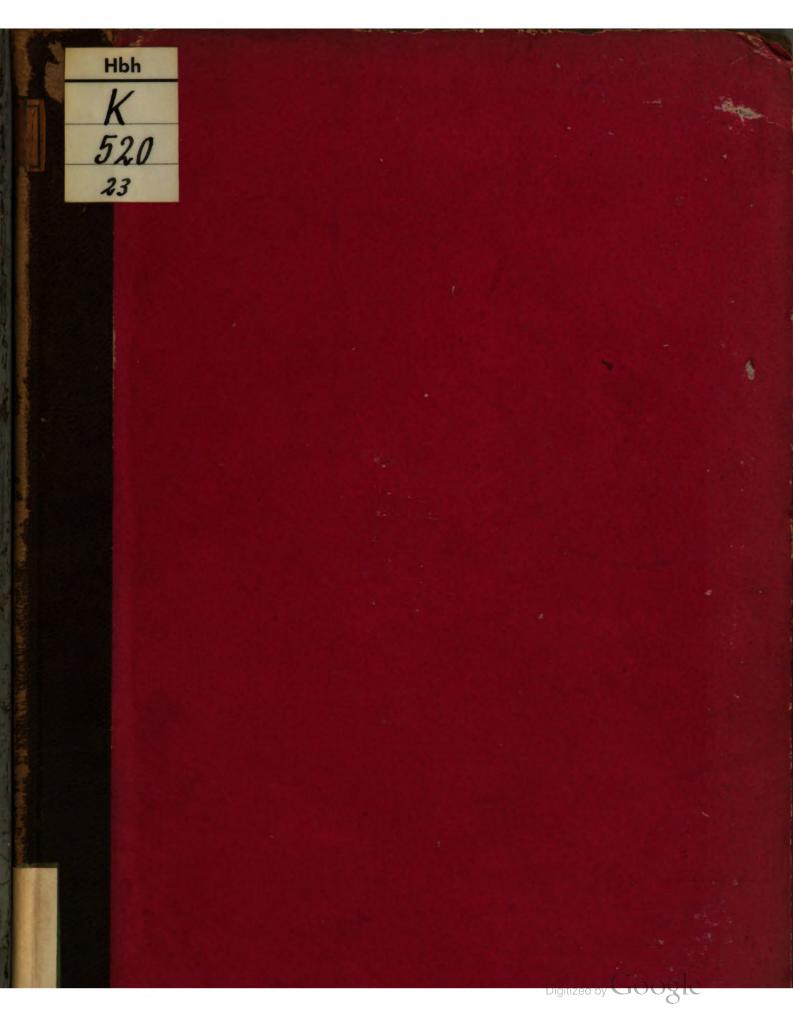


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ROXBURGHE CLUB. — A Fragment of Partonope of Blois, from a MS. at Vale Royal in the possession of Lord Delamere, facsimile plate, thin 4to, roxburgh binding, 25s 1873

A FRAGMENT

oF

PARTONOPE OF BLOIS,

FROM A MANUSCRIPT AT VALE ROYAL,

IN THE POSSESSION OF LORD DELAMERE.

PRINTED FOR THE

Korburghe Club.

[Publications.

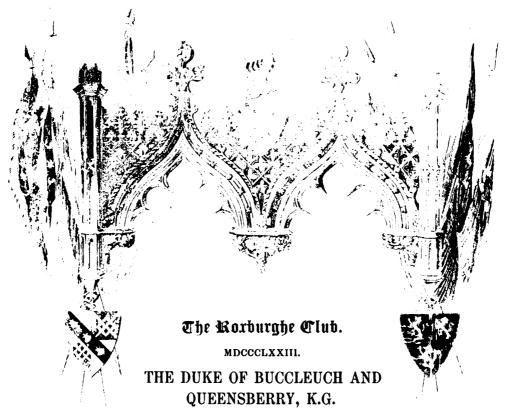
LONDON:
NICHOLS AND SONS, 25, PARLIAMENT STREET.

MDCCCLXXIII.

A FRAGMENT OF PARTONOPE OF BLOIS.



Korburghe Club.



PRESIDENT.

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THE following portion of the romance of PARTONOPE (in this fragment written Pertinope) is contained in a MS. volume of the date of about 1450 in the possession of Lord Delamere. This volume now consists of 175 folios, but has lost a considerable number, as is shown by the original signatures on many of the sheets (consisting of eight leaves each). The greater portion of it is occupied by Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, but the first 19 and last 18 folios (of which the former are shown by the signatures to have formed no part of the original volume) contain various poems or portions of poems, including several of Gower's stories. The Canterbury Tales are followed by "Nabugodonosor" and "A Tale of the Dignite of Wedlok," occupying fols. 158 to 164, col. 1; and on the second column of the same page commences, without a title, the story of Pertinope, which continues to the end of fol. 165, the second and third pages only having a heading "Pertinope." The next six leaves of the book are wanting, and the few words that are decipherable on the succeeding page do not belong to this poem.

This fragment forms a portion of an entirely different version of the story from that which is contained in the volume of "Partonope," printed by the Roxburghe Club in 1862, from the MSS. of University College, Oxford, and the Bodleian. Both those copies are imperfect, but the contents of the lost portions are described by Mr. Buckley, in his Introduction to that volume, from the original French text in Crapelet's edition, which the English appears to follow pretty closely. Without recapitulating, it is sufficient to repeat that that poem commences with the Creation, and, passing to the Trojan war, follows the fortunes of Marcomiris, son of Priam, who became the

ancestor of the Kings of France and of the hero of the tale. It then narrates his hunting expedition and consequent adventures, as told in the following pages in lines 97-221. He is visited by Melior, who then tells him what is here contained in the first 96 lines. The English version, as extant, begins about the 1,370th line of the French, and the sequel of the conversation between Melior and "Partonope" occupies 300 lines, the remainder of the story filling about 7,000 more.

In the following fragment we seem to have a portion of a much shorter version of the Romance. The order of narration is different, though the adventures are the same, but the period of Pertinope's probation is (l. 262) twelve months instead of two years and a half, as in the other version (p. 7, line 173). The last 32 lines, though written on without a break from what precedes, and only distinguished by a large initial letter, belong to a totally different part of the story, corresponding to a portion which is wanting at the end of the other version, and relating to the morning of one of the combats between Partonope and the Sowdan. "Gaudyn" is the squire of Partonope, or, in the words of the poem, "ys to Partonope both felaw and seruant" (U. C. text, l. 6,515) and is not with him at the enchanted castle.

The volume of Lord Delamere's MS. was bound in 1720, as is recorded in a note signed T. T. [Bishop Tanner?] on the fly-leaf. It is there said to have been previously "in a very wretched condition," and to have then belonged to "Mr. Cholmondeley of Vale Royall." The first few leaves and all the latter part have suffered seriously from moisture, portions of the writing at the head of each column being almost, and sometimes quite, illegible.

R. C. N.



That was dowghtty holden in dede
Atte iustys and atte turnementtynge
Hee bare hym weelle upon a stede.

Hee was curteys in alle thynge	5
And whit lewte his land dede leede	
Hee hadde thanne two dowghttris yinge	
That frely fayre thay were for [alle] steede.	
They were the feyreste maydenis two	
That evere men knewe on any syde	10
Here Moder thee quene deyde hem fro	
That louely was of hewe and hyde.	
Melior was thee Eldere maydenys name	
That wonder fayire was on to see	
And as a wyght moost worthily in wane	15
Vrake was kleped here suster free.	
Melior was wyght as whalis boon	
Wt Rode as Reed as Rose is of hewe	
Soo fayir a foede men myghtte fynde noon	
Thorghw alle thee worlde to remewe.	20
Thorghw alle thee worlde to wende	
Scholde men fynde noon so fayir	
Here fader the kyng Curteyis and heende	
Made mayde Melior his ayir.	
That goodly Mayde gay under gore	25

That was so bryght and holde of here blee	
Hendely was she sette to lore	
As lawe wolde of that cuntree.	
All bare whanne hiere vesage wore	
A swettere thyng myghtte noman see	3 0
In a twelue Monethe sche lerned more	
Thanne other Clerkys dede in yerys three.	
Soo weelle lernede that Mayden gent	
That fayir was as flowr on hille	
That sche cowthe wt a chauntement	35
Worche alle thyng to hiere owne wille.	
Wyght as swan sche hadde the swire	
That swete and swathell was to be holde	
As lelye leef sche hadde the lyire	
Bryght browys fayre bent and bolde.	40
Hiere heer fyerde as droht gold wyire	
That louely was to feele and foolde	
Whanne sche was tiffed in hiere attire	
Man knewen noon swych atte will to holde.	
[They of hiere] will were [fully at oo]	45
That were so fayr and fre t[hat stonde]	
Whanne hiere fader dyde [hem fro]	
Thanne was sche quene of that londe.	
[Sche] that was fayir of fote and honde	
[And so] Riche a quene of [goodly chere]	5 0
[Thanne] hadde sche nede of a good housbande	
[Therefore sche sente] bothe feer and nere.	
Thorghw alle Reawmis sche sente hiere sonde	
To loke who best myghtte best (sic) been here pere	
And atte the laste a chyilde they fonde	58

That of vysage was fayir and klere.

Hee was fayir in alle thynge

And swiche dowghtty wt spere & lawnce

And cosyn was to thee Riche kynge

That atte that tyme was kyng of frawnce.

Hee was so goodly a creature

That to hym every man yaf voyis

That was seyen in halle and bowre

Over all othere he hadde thee choyis.

He was ryght stif in every stowr

Wt owten bost or other greet noyse

Hee was wyght as is the lylie flowr

His name was pertinope de bloys.



hee Messageris thanne wenten hoom

And tolden the Mayden this tidynge

70

Soo fayr a chyild sawe they never noon

Hee is Eerl of Bloys and co3yn to the kynge.

Thanne this Mayde so bryght of blee
In hertte that worde sone sche hentte
And thowghtte the chyild hiere self to see
Fulle sone wt here enchawnttemente.
Previly hiere greythis that bryght of blee
In to thee Reawme of frawnce sche wente
And sone com unto the selue Citee
Theer this gentell chyild was lente.
Sche dwellede theer to see this chyild
That soe dowhtty was of his dede
Whittere thanne is the flowr in feyld
A 2

Sche sawe nevere noon of his fayirhede.	
A while this lady dwellede thare	85
Thee chyild hiere lykede oftetymes to sene	
Best to asspye what his condicionys ware	
For they were bothe goode and klene.	
Soo fayire a chyild she sawe neuere are	
His colour was so bryght and schene	90
Thanne home ayen gan she to fare	
But noman ne wyste where she hadde bene.	
All hiere loue on hym was lente	
That was as wyght as whalis boone	
She thoughtte whit hiere enchauntement	95
To haue that worthy under wone.	
Afterward it fell uppon a day	
Thee kyng on huntynge he wolde ryde	
Wt horn and howndys for to play	
Pertinope wentte by his syde.	100
Thorghw enchauntement of that may	
They Reysede an hart wt hornis wyde	
Thee chyild gan folwe faste on his way	
Till that he come to thee see syde.	
Soo feer he folwede after that deer	105
As thee Romawce serteynly sayis	
That horn no hownd myghte hee noo here	
But entrede Ryght in to Ardenays.	
Ardeneys was was (sic) a wyilde forest	
That no man durste huntte thare	110
For liowns liberdys and other wylde beestis	
That gryisly were in holtis hare.	
Dragounys dredfully drowen of Reste	

And made this chyild aferde fulle sore	
And thanne to god up his hertte hee caste	115
Hee seyde Jhu Mercy thyine Oore	
Ne lete me nevere here to been shent	
As thow suffredst woundys wyde.	
Thanne thorghw thee Maydenys enchauntement	
A schip come seilynge hym faste be syde.	120
Thee chyild a feerd was under bowgh	
Noo man thorte hym ther offe wyte	
For dragoun owt of here dennys they drogh	
And made thee chyild haue sorwe in syghtte.	
Thee schip come seilynge faste j nowgh	125
And atte a banke it longe gan to a byde	
Thee chyild thanne wendis in to that schowgh	
It was covered wt samyte that tyde.	
His hors his howndes to hym were browght	
But but (sic) hee ne wiste in what manere	130
Soo fayire a vesselle that schip hym thought	
Hee hadde seen noon that myghtte be the peere.	
Thee chyild stode thee schip wt inne	
And it avaled froo thee banke wt owte dowte	
Thee sayil to thee Mast top sone gan wynne	135
By thanne hee sawe no man hym a bowte.	
Bryght as gold thanne gane hit brenne	
Wt stonys that weren Riche and stowte	
Afeerdnesse than in his herte gan renne	
For of thee devell hee hadde great dowte.	140
Greet dowte hee hadde of a cwilbersaunce	
And besowghtte to god wt herte free	
To schilde and saue hym from meschaunce	

For her we same want but they muilde an	
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Thee schip was alle gooldly by goone	
As gold a bowte hit gleterede bryght	•
And sette wt manye a Rialle stone.	
His herte to god hee haf up on heyghte	
Prayinge hym to saue hym blood & boone	150
And blessede hym well wt alle his myghte	
And evere to owre makynge his mone.	
His mone hee made wt hertte and honde	
Thee gentill chyild that was so free	
Hee saylede owt ouer the stronde	155
And so hee arryuede atte a fayr Citee.	
Uppon the lond whanne hee was lente	
Owt of the schip he made hym bowne	
His hors his howndys up he hem hente	
Hee sawe neuere eere so fayir a towne.	160
Thanne there dwellede thee Mayden gent	
In a Castell of greet renown	
Theder the way witterly hee went	
And in that place hee lyghtte adown.	
Whanne this gentel chyild was alyght	165
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In alle thee kyngis lond off Frawnce	
But evere in hertte [was hee] a ferd sore	
For dowte of [thee fendys en]cvmbrawnce.	180
Whanne the chyilde [his soper had done]	
Thee cvmly cloth [then went away]	
Towailys wyghtte as chalk [ryght sone]	
By fore hym were spred fulle good and [gay]	
Basyn and lauere was browght hym tille	185
Sette w ^t manye a Ryche stoone	
To serve thee semely chyild in halle	
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To saue hym froo thee fendys cymberment.	200
As that day thus was he fedde	
Wt feyir servise atte his wille	
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His hertte to god hee lefte up Ryght	
And made his prayeris wt good entente.	220
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[And] sone thanne come that lady gent	
[Sche] of hiere Robis [was sone] vndyght	
[Streyght] unto that bed sche went.	
[And into] bed whanne sche was greythed	225
[Thanne] of hiere speche gan sche [on hey]the	
[And saide] thow that thus here art beded	
[Arise and] voyde my chavmber swythe.	
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Thee gentelle chyild pertinone	

Sone hee neghede thanne that lady hende	
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Softe as selk hee gan hiere fynde.	
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And and (sic) also of thee kyende of sire Ectore.	
And fore thy my love so on the stood	
That me longede to thee Ryght sore	
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And worchen thow shalt after my lore.	26 0
Yif that thow yerne me for to see	
Of all this twelue Monthe ayenst my will	
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n thee morwe whanne they aRoos
Thee knyght toke his armys hym tille
Pertinope seyde hee wery was
And gaudyn seyde for shame bee still.

280

But thou bee dowghty now this day
All is nowt worht as thou weelle woost
Bere thee weelle now in thys turnay
Ore ellys thy longe travaile is lost.
Thee sowdan thenkyht to have that may
Whit his Richesse and his great boost
Forto bee whit hiere bothe nyght and day
And lord and syre of alle that coost.
Loke now that thow bee dowghtty in dede
For thow shalt have greet helpe of mee
290
For whanne that thow art wery in thy wede

And fall week and produce one of the first that the

Thenk uppon thy lady free. But whanne thys lordys hadde herd masse They assembled were alle by dene Lytell and mykyll more and lasse 295 All they weren apparayled clene. Thanne come there knyghttis twoo A softe paas fram thee foreste Ryde Thee Oolde dewk to his felawys seyde thoo **3**00 Now come my children that wole abyde. Thee kyng of Frawnce was man dowghtty Amongis his folkys theer hee Roode And arrayde thee vtter partye Whit theyre baneris bryghtte and broode. Theer was noyse of Menstralcye 305 Trwumpys tabowris and nakernis made Theerwhit they casten up a lowd crye Thee folk they ioynede for heyghe they hade.

[End of the leaf.]

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amee, 263, and me.
amongis, 302, among.
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are, 89, before
aroos, 277, arose.
atte, 3, 55, 60, at.
avaled, 134, descended.
ayen, 91, again.
ayenst, 262, against.
ayir, 24, heir, Fr. oir.

bare, 29, uncovered.
bent, 40, arched.
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blee, 26, 73, 77, 209, colour.
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bolde, 40, smooth?
bone, 199, prayer.
boolde, 240, smooth? or quickly?
bourdys, 198, tables, boards.
bowne, 158, ready.
brenne, 137, burn.
by-dene, 294, forthwith.
byerde, 240, lady, bride.
by-gone, 210, }
by-goone, 146,}

chauntement, 25, enchantment. Christiantee, 251, Christendom. chyilde, 55, 71, &c., child, youth. citee, 79, 156, city. comen, 195, 253, come, descended from. cowthe, 35, knew. cumberment, 200, molestation.

curteys, 5, 23, 170, courteous. cwilbersaunce, 141, destruction. A. S. cwildbær, destructive: from cwellan to quell, kill. The termination quice is French. See Earle's Philology of the English Language, p. 296. dewk, 299, duke, leader. See Dyce's Skelton, ii. 141. dowte, 134, doubt; 140, 141, fear. dowghttris, 7, daughters. dowghtty, 2, 58, 82, 170, 281, 289, doughty. drogh, 123, drew. droght, 41, drawn. drowe, 172, drew drowen, 113, drove. Ectore, 256. eerl, 72, earl. eey, 176, 177, eye. eeven, 203, even. fader, 23, 47, father. fare, 91, go. fayir, 34, 56, 57, 192, 202, 204, fair. fayirhede, 84, fairness, beauty! feer, 52, 105, far. foede, 19, a youth: one nourished; cfr. alumnus. folkys, 302, people. fonde, 55, found. foode, 259, a youth. fordoost, 263, undo, ruin. fote, 49, foot. fram, 298, from. Frawnce, 60, 78, 178, 245, 255, 269, 301.

fre, free, 16, 46, 142, 154, 211, 235, 293, noble.
frely, 8, 259, nobly.
fro, froo, 11, 47, 166, 200, 245, from.
fyerde, 41, fiery? in colour. Ps. cxviii. 140.
"Fired" is "tried, refined, pure;" ignitum in the Vulgate.

Gaudyn, 280.
gay, 25, 184, 214, 271, gay.
gent, 33, 161, 222, 242, gentle.
gled, 267, gold.
gore, 24, dress.
greythed, 225, prepared.
greythis, 77, prepares.
gunne, 190, began.

hadde, 37, 39, 64, 92, had. haf, 149, raised. hare, 112, hoary. heende, 23, courteous, polite. heer, 41, hair. hele, 266, hide, cover. hende, 234, courteous, lit. handy, dexterous, and so polite. hendely, 27, courteously. hentte, 74, 159, 218, 244, took. here, 11, 23, 54, their. hewe, 12, 18, fine, complexion. heye, 215, hie, hasten. heyghe, 308, haste. hiere, 29, 36, 41, 47, her, their. holde, 26, faithful, true; clear? hollyche, 249, wholly. honde, 49, hands. holtis, 112, woods. hoom, 69, home. hyde, 12, skin.

inough, 125, 268, 276, enough.

klene, 88, clean. kleped, 16, called. klere, 56, clear. knewe, 10, knew. knewen, 44, 254, knew. kloht, 171, cloth. kyende, 256, kin, family.

lavouris, 190, lavers, basins.
lelye, 39, lily.
lefte, 219, lifted.
lente, 80, abode; 93, 248, 249, given, set.
lente, 157, landed.
lewte, 6, loyalty, A.N.
lyire, 39, check; A.-S. hleor, face, check.
lore, 27, 260, lore, instruction.
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lytell, 295, little.

man, 44; men, 10.
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masse, 293, mass.
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menstralcye, 805, minstrels.
messageris, 69, messengers.
moder, 11, mother.
monethe, 31, month.
mykyll, 295, much, largé, great.

nakernis, 306, kettle drums. ney, 172, nigh. noman, 30, 92, 275, no man. noon, 19, 22, 71, 84, 107, 167, none.

oore, owre, 116, 152, mercy, grace; A.-S. ar.

pere, 54, 132, peer, equal, match.
Pertinope, 68, 100, 205, 233, 243, 279.

queyntise, 193, 276, cunning, knowledge; O. F. cointe; Lat. cognitus.

reawme, reawmis, 78, 53, realm. remewe, 20, remove; F. remuer rode, 18, complexion.

Romawce, 106, Romance. roode, 302, rode.

samyte, 128, a rich silk; v. Ducange in Exametum.
sayis, 105, says.
sche, 31, &c. she.
schene, 90, bright, shining.
schilde, 143, shield.
schip, 120, 131, ship.
scholde, 22, should.
schowgh, 127, a vessel. Dutch, schoww.

schowgh, 127, a vessel. Dutch, schouw, ferry-boat. In Early English Alliterative Poems edited by Morris for E. E. T. S. 1029, "wer schowed," i. e. shoved; from A.-S. scûfan, to shove. Hence perhaps "schowgh," a boat that is shoved, a punt; and so a vessel, ship.

seche, 272, seek.

selue, 79, self same.

seyen, 63, say.

shent, 117, confounded, destroyed.

sley, 170, skilful, sly.

sonde, 53, messengers.

Sowdan, 285, Sultan.

spredde, 171, spread.

stadds 179 mlmasi s

stadde, 173, placed, set.

stalworth, 271, stalwart, stout.

sted, 231, set, placed.

stede, 4, steed.

steede, 8, set, placed.

stowr, 65, conflict.

suster, 16, sister.

swathell, 38, firm, well-set, A.-S.

swythlic, ingens vehemens. See Jamieson's

Scottish Dictionary.

swete, 38, sweet.

swettere, 30, sweeter.

swiche, 58, such.

swire, 37, neck.

swych, 44, such.

swythe, 228, quickly.

syde, 10, side, time.

take, 212, taken.

thanne, 7, &c., then.

thare, 85, there.

that, 8, so.

theer, 80, 81, there.

thorghw, 20, 21, 53, through.

thorte, 122, needed.

thoughtte, 75, 95, 168, thought.

tiffed, 43, decked out, adorned.

tille, 185, 204, 278, to.

tolden, 70, told.

towailys, 183, towels.

undyght, 223, undressed.

voyis, 62, voice.

Vrake, 16.

wane, 15, custom; "in wane," commonly.

ware, 87, were.

wede, 250, 291, clothing, weed.

weelle, 4, 33, 266, 282, 283, well.

wende, 21, to go.

wendis, 127, goes.

wente, wentte, 78, 100, 174, went.

wenten, 69, went.

were, 294, were.

weren, 138, 296, were.

whalis boon, 17, 94, whale's bone. "The ivory then in use (which was made from the teeth of the horse-whale, morse, or walrus) was supposed to be part of the bones of a whale." Dyce on Skelton, ii.

311.

wheder, 232, whither.

whilum, 1, formerly.

whit, 6, with.

whittere, 83, whiter.

witterly, 163, certainly.

wolde, 28, would.

wone, 96; "under wone," dwelling or possession. See Townley Mysteries, 10.

wone, 208, plenty.

worche, 36, work.

GLOSSARIAL INDEX.

worchen, 260, work. wore, 29, was. worht, 282. wrought. wychs, 174, washes. wyght, 15, person. wyght, 17, 37, 67, white. wyilde, 109, 111, 144, wild. wynne, 135, reach. wyte, 122, blame. yaf, 62, gave. yif, 261, 265, if. yinge, 7, young.

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